

**HOWARD COUNTY**  
**Opioid Crisis Community Council**  
**March 3, 2021**

**5:51-6:45**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Barbara Allen, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Robin Bartko, Corey Bryce, Christina Castro, Theresa Collins, Katie Dant, Mark Donovan, Beth Harbinson, Eric Kurhm, Kaymisha Knight, Sean Ford, Sean Hughes, Cindy Johnson, James LeMon, Deacon Mimi Mathews, Lisa Morrel, Debbie Nix, Teron Powell, Debbie Santini, Laura Torres, Joan Webb Scornaienchi, John Way

Meeting was called to order 5:15 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

Motion to approve the February minutes; Mimi, Robin seconded; minutes were approved.

**Announcements** – Roe reminded us that county Covid information is updated regularly on the HCHD website; there's a link posted in the chat. Behavioral Health Summit Series in partnership with Aetna; Wednesdays at noon. March 17, [Recovery Toolbox](#) and April 21, [Dealing with Unrest](#). REGISTRATION: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/howard-county-behavioral-health-summit-series-tickets-126902794675>

Roe Updates: Request for Funding Proposals are due.

- Providers; LBHA board funding
- Crisis beds
- Case management for LEAD services; information on the County purchasing website
- Buprenorphine initiative
- HUB & SPOKE funding- for physicians who prescribe buprenorphine.
- 211 Crisis hotline funding
- Prevention services FY 2022
- State Behavioral Health Administration funding.

Kamisha - HCHD reminder about Naloxone training available online with Naloxone being mailed to the participants after completion. <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Health/Behavioral-Health/Opioid-Overdose-Response-Program>

James gave updates on the HCPSS 4000 plus students now back in class; it's been an exciting return with heavy focus on safety first; Student Support Teams ready! More information found here: <https://help.hcpss.org/>

Beth H. talked about Sobar's sober Saint Patrick's Day virtual event on March 17th

Barb talked about proposed State legislation –

- lots of energy around the Telehealth bills; excitement and support with a request for a sunset clause and a 2-year study about effectiveness. Up to the therapist to determine in-person, audio only or video; not to be mandated by legislation. (NOTE: Congress wants audio only due to the January 6th Capitol event.) Cigna bought out some Tele health services, Tele health services are trending either audio only or audio/video.
- Optum house bill 919 - increased sanctions, recommend increase oversight by MIA, funding because of Optum mess up.
- House bill 996 - alcohol and gambling out of committee with a recommendation for passage with exception for allowing underage delivery persons.
- Bill: Requesting sale of alcohol in grocery stores as a means to combat obesity. Much opposition to this bill.

Debbie - Maryland Coalition of Families, Congruent, HC DrugFree joint alcohol and drug forum had five participants in February: next meeting to be March 18<sup>th</sup>. Flyer will go out soon.

Christina Castro - Howard County Fire and Rescue presentation on the Mobile Integrated Community Health program, providing vaccines for patients who are homebound or with certain disabilities in their own homes. "Connecting the Community".

Email to sign up for the MICH program: [mich@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mich@howardcountymd.gov)

Email for vaccine registration: [hocovaccine@howardcounty.gov](mailto:hocovaccine@howardcounty.gov)

**Report** - Communications Committee; Sean Hughes spoke about the need to create a speakers panel; we discussed the idea to post a brief list of FAQ's on the Health Department website and on the OCCC page on the county's website. Ideas for the FAQ's are: 211 press 1, peer support contact number, Maryland Insurance Administration contact info (for insurance denials/support for approvals), Maryland Coalition of Families, and some sort of treatment locator.

For resources, Roe talked about the Network of Care and the PDF document on HCHD website, stating it is updated very frequently. For mental health/substance use resources and referrals: Call 410-313-6240 or the HCHD Behavioral Health Community Services Directories page or Network of Care Directory of Services (searchable). HC BH resource guides (adult/youth) last updated 12/30/20. Those links are on our website.

Beth Harbinson asked how we can involve peer recovery specialists to talk to families affected by SUD. Inviting the community to ask what the community needs. Barbara suggested we bring in partners from zoning, transportation, family law and others for Town Hall listening sessions.

James discussed Student Support Teams - who what where why. Presentation, resources on HCPSS website. Perhaps Tempe Beall join us for a presentation? Barbara to follow up with Tempe.

Cindy, SAO talked about outreach and funding, offering to go into the HCPSS with program information for teens, PTA's and coaches. Speakers Bureau should be targeted for HCPSS audiences. Robin B. said the incidences of school age children using drugs for self-medicating is on the increase during the pandemic, and she offered to assist Cindy in getting info into the schools. James reminded us about the Howard County Board of Education Policy 10010, Distribution and Display of Materials and Announcements, the following announcements have been approved by the Public Information Office for distribution. Please visit Distributing Community Information through the school system or contact the Public Information Office at 410-313-6682 if you have any questions.

<https://community-programs.hcpss.org/>

Joan WS talked about the upcoming Life Skill classes which will restart in March; 38 students are enrolled! HCDF attracts students that are not very knowledgeable about SUD and their program is targeted towards prevention, education.

Barbara asked us all to consider this question: the OCCC membership intention was to have representation across the board - are there any needs? Any suggestions for folks to add?

This year, IOAD in Howard County will be held virtually on Tuesday, August 31. There is a bill before the General Assembly to have the Governor acknowledge August 31st as a statewide overdose awareness day; buildings to "go purple" and flags to be flown at half-staff.

Next OCCC meeting to be held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Debbie Nix

#### Items in CHAT

17:41:03 From Beth Harbinson to Everyone : Sober St. Patrick's Day free event  
<https://mailchi.mp/41b0785fdb46/enter-our-zero-alcohol-mixology-contest-for-fun-prizes?fbclid=IwAR2nvzZdnW575ft6QuPDH0hyn--RkNTGX9HCEIYuX4lxJq7AypeDquBejl>

17:41:23 From Roe to Everyone : <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Health>  
17:41:56 From Roe to Everyone : Howard County Behavioral Health Summit Series  
BH\_Summit

Aetna is proud to partner with the Howard County Health Department to bring you this 5-part series of webinars that will help you learn ways to stay healthy and take control in 2020 and beyond. Join each of these 1-hour sessions, featuring insightful and inspiring conversations with community experts about mental health and wellness.

Part 5: Growing Your Wellness Toolbox Wednesday, March 17, 2021; 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

REGISTRATION: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/howard-county-behavioral-health-summit-series-tickets-126902794675>

17:43:42 From James LeMon to Everyone : If you would like more information regarding the HCPSS.  
<https://www.hcpss.org/>

17:44:50 From James LeMon to Everyone : This is has more specific information.  
<https://help.hcpss.org/>

17:44:57 From Kaymisha Knights-HCHD to Everyone : Link to upcoming overdose training  
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Health/Behavioral-Health/Opioid-Overdose-Response-Program>

17:54:17 From Robin Bartko to Everyone : I would be glad to put that on social media as well.

17:54:58 From Debbie Nix, lost loved one to SUD to Everyone : I will make sure MCF sends that out asap. March 18 next mtg.

18:06:01 From Christina Castro to Everyone : 410-313-6284

18:07:04 From Christina Castro to Everyone : Email for vaccine: [hocovaccine@howardcounty.gov](mailto:hocovaccine@howardcounty.gov)

18:07:56 From Roe to Everyone : <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Health>

18:08:23 From Katie (they/them) to Everyone : [katieda@grassrootscrisis.org](mailto:katieda@grassrootscrisis.org)

18:08:24 From Christina Castro to Everyone : My email: [ccastro@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ccastro@howardcountymd.gov)

18:08:29 From Christina Castro to Everyone : [mich@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mich@howardcountymd.gov)

18:20:09 From James LeMon to Everyone : If you are interested in posting information regarding programs or events please read this information and see the link below.  
In alignment with Howard County Board of Education Policy 10010, Distribution and Display of Materials and Announcements, the following announcements have been approved by the Public Information Office for distribution. Please visit Distributing Community Information through the School System or contact the Public Information Office at 410-313-6682 if you have any questions.  
<https://community-programs.hcpss.org/>

18:21:29 From Roe to Everyone : For mental health/substance use resources and referrals: Call 410-313-6240 or fill out this online form.  
You can also visit HCHD Behavioral Health Community Services Directories page or Network of Care Directory of Services (searchable)

18:23:55 From Roe to Everyone : HC BH resource guides (adlt/youth) last updated 12/30/20. Those links are on our website.

18:43:10 From Robin Bartko to Everyone : Cindy, I would welcome the opportunity to help with getting more info. to students